



Metro

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Metropolitan Transportation Authority

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Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) Meeting MINUTES

Wednesday, July 7, 2021 | 5:00-7:00pm

1. Call to Order

a. Zoom Meeting Protocols

Facilitator Thomson Dryjanski called the meeting to order. Noted that Spanish and American Sign Language interpreter services would be available throughout the meeting. Additionally, instructed committee members that all comments must be use the “all participants and panelists” function so they are visible to all attendees.

b. Roll Call

Present: Ashley Ajayi, Carrie Madden, Charles Hammerstein, Chauncey Smith, Clarence Davis, Constance Strickland, Darryl Goodus, Esteban Garcia, Fabian Gallardo, Florence Annang, Glenda Murrell, James Wen, Jessica Kellogg, Jose Raigoza, Ma’ayan Dembo, Maricela De Rivera, Mohammad Tajsar, Ron Rodney, Scarlett de Leon

Absent: Andrea Urmanita, Mechell Graham, Raul Gomez, Dr. Sabrina Howard

c. Update on meeting timing

Facilitator Tamika Butler proposed that the first bi-monthly PSAC meeting be 2 hours, and the second meeting be 1.5 hours. She noted that voting would take place in the first 90 minutes of each meeting. The committee members voiced their support for adding a half an hour to the first bimonthly meeting.

d. Approval of 06/16 meeting minutes

A vote was taken to approve the meeting minutes for the June 16, 2021 meeting.

Ayes: 11

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

2. General Public Comment

Public comment was taken from meeting participants. The following comments were shared:

- a. Commentor representing the Bus Riders Union indicated they were worried that PSAC and Metro have not conducted any community engagement concerning the PSAC initiative and voiced concern regarding the two-week timeline that Metro had given committee members to provide recommendations on new police contracts.
- b. Commentor representing ACT-LA thanked committee members for their participation and observed that there is a long history of racial profiling and arresting unhoused individuals on the Metro system.



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- c. Commentor is a frequent Metro rider and shared an experience of witnessing a passenger being harassed while having a mental health crisis. They called for more mental health services providers on the system.
- d. Commentor shared a concern about airflow and contracting COVID-19 on the Red Line since the car windows do not open.
- e. Commentor thanked Metro for amending language – used by Metro in a previous presentation – related to riders with mental health disabilities.

3. Committee Member Proposal (10 mins)

Restructuring PSAC Ad hoc Committees (*Chauncey Smith, PSAC Member*)

- a. This item was discussed during the June 16, 2021 meeting and was tabled until this meeting for further discussion and approval.
 - o Committee member James Wen proposed amending Committee member Chauncey Smith’s restructuring plan by retaining the Community Engagement ad hoc committee and changing the title of the Transportation Ambassadors and Training ad hoc committee to Non-Law Enforcement Alternatives and Training.
 - o Several members shared that they would like to keep the Community Engagement ad hoc committee, saying that a dedicated Fareless Transit Program ad hoc committee would be outside the scope of PSAC. Still others noted that fareless transit would fall under PSAC’s charge to provide recommendations related to the agency’s fare discount programs.
 - o Several members emphasized that training is an essential component for each ad hoc committee.

Public Comment on Restructuring PSAC Committees

- o Commenter is a Metro operator and shared that passengers often do not pay fare. They also voiced concern about removing police from the Metro system.
- o Commenter does not support police enforcing fare compliance but does support police protecting passengers from violent crime.
- o Commenter is a Metro operator and is skeptical of non-law enforcement alternatives. They also voiced safety concerns about removing law enforcement from the transit system.
- o Commenter is a Metro operator and shared safety concerns about removing police from the transit system.
- o PSAC committee member responded to public comment with the following:
 - o Member Davis thanked the Metro operators for commenting and discussed incentivizing law enforcement to use the Metro system.
 - o Member Tajsar expressed concerns of fear mongering against unhoused individuals.

Facilitator Tamika Butler then proposed the updated ad hoc committee names. In response to committee member Wen’s concern, facilitator Butler emphasized that training would be a



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component of each ad hoc committee. The updated ad hoc committee names presented to the committee are:

- Police Practices
- Non-Law Enforcement Alternatives
- Community Engagement
- Infrastructure Protection Services
- Public Safety Survey

The proposal passed with the following votes:

- a. Voting:
- b. Ayes: 9
- c. Nays: 0
- d. Abstentions: 2

4. Discussion

- a. **Summary of Critical Issues:** Presentation on Metro’s Priorities, Urgent Timelines, and Mechanisms to Offer Feedback.
 - This item was tabled due to time constraints.
- b. **Ad-Hoc Subcommittee Reports**
 - **Infrastructure Protection Services (IPS) ad hoc committee:** Committee member Garcia reported on the Infrastructure Protection Services (IPS) ad hoc committee. The ad hoc committee discussed the following:
 1. **Scope of recommendations:** This ad hoc committee will provide recommendations based on the previous Scope of Work. The forthcoming Scope of Work is confidential and cannot be shared with PSAC.
 2. **Deadline for recommendations:** The deadline for the committee to provide recommendations was extended to July 21st and Metro Board will vote on this issue in February 2022.
 - a. **Key takeaways:** Member Garcia reiterated that the goal of the committee is to present non-law enforcement alternatives. He shared that the ad hoc committee discussed the appearance and uniform of security personnel. The committee agreed that security guards should be equipped with identifiable Metro logos or symbols and the uniform should be less be less militaristic. The committees also discussed security personnel helping raise awareness of and improving access to existing resources for customers.
 3. **Comments and questions from the full committee:**



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- a. Member Ajayi resonated with the emphasis on raising the awareness of existing resources and asked what kind of measures Metro can take to enhance the accessibility.
 - i. Member Garcia stated that providing materials in multiple languages is one of the critical measures and mentioned that the Transit Watch app is available in different.
 - b. Member Clarence asked for clarification on how the uniform would look.
 - i. Member Garcia answered that the idea is that private security members will wear their own uniform but wear vests with visible Metro logo.
 - c. Member Raigoza asked how the security personnel will be allocated between the bus and rail systems.
 - i. Member Garcia replied that Metro has an internal plan for the allocation, but the committee did not cover this topic. Member de Rivera expressed the desire to have PSAC review how security personnel are allocated.
- **Transit Ambassadors + Training ad hoc committee:** Committee member Rodney and Goodus reported on the Transit Ambassadors + Training ad hoc committee. The ad hoc committee shared the following:
- 1. **Recommendation mechanisms:** The ad hoc committee discussed the anticipated mechanisms for providing recommendations to the larger PSAC committee.
 - 2. **Transit Ambassador Training scenarios:** Metro staff presented different intervention scenarios for transit ambassadors to the ad hoc committee; they asked for specific feedback on how ambassadors should respond.
 - a. These scenarios include fighting, harassment, smoking, loud music, littering, fare evasion, eating, threatening behavior, unhygienic conditions, drug use, as well as urination and defecation. The ad hoc committee also added additional scenarios for responding to inebriated riders and interventions related to sexual assault.
 - b. The committee also discussed how each scenario affects riders, and described transit ambassador responsibilities for the scenarios listed above.
 - c. The committee discussed incorporating trauma-informed training mechanisms into the ambassador training and reaching out to receive presentations from community-based organizations with expertise in the field.



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- d. Metro will work with the committee to invite Chrysalis, a nonprofit based in Los Angeles Fashion District, to speak at future ad hoc meetings.
 - e. The committee met again on July 7th and continued their discussion on the scenarios provided by Metro, which covered urination and defecation, sexual harassment, sex trafficking, as well as doorway and aisle obstructions.
 - f. The committee asked to invite Metro's contracted law enforcement to provide a presentation on their existing procedures and protocols.
 - g. The committee also allocated time to discuss the ad hoc committee restructuring proposal from committee member Smith.
3. **Comments and questions from the full committee:**
- a. Member De Leon asked for clarification on whether the transit ambassadors will be Metro staff or outside contractors and suggested that this is a critical opportunity for creating good-paying public sector jobs.
 - i. Metro staffer Aaron Weinstein responded that Metro has not determined how they will source the ambassadors and will continue to consider this issue.
- **Public Safety Survey (PSS) ad hoc committee:** Committee member Ajayi reported on the Public Safety Survey ad hoc committee. The ad hoc committee shared the following:
- 1. **Public Safety Survey review:** The committee reviewed two surveys: (1) a public safety survey and (2) a survey instrument focused on people experiencing homelessness.
 - a. The committee shared that their first meeting involved extensive discussion to understand what the surveys' scope, intended reach, and outreach processes.
 - b. The committee reviewed the surveys question by question.
 - c. The consultants leading on the survey development shared survey administration techniques and the survey's desired sample size – 2000 respondents – with the committee.
 - 2. **Comments and questions from the full committee:**
 - a. Member Dembo raised a question regarding the budget allocated to undertake the surveys.
 - i. The ad hoc committee meeting did not cover this topic, noting the survey consultants were selected before the formation of PSAC.



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- b. Member Smith raised a question regarding how the pool of survey participants is determined. He urged Metro to include historically marginalized groups including people of color, low-income people, LGBTQ groups, etc.
 - i. Metro shared that the survey has demographic targets that must be met before it is closed.
- c. Member Maricela indicated that the definition of public safety in the surveys leans heavily on notions of traditional policing.
 - i. Metro side note - The consultant subsequently made changes to the survey to be responsive to this, including elements of safety that are not part of the “crime” framing, such as for better lighting, restrooms, station activation with cafes/music/etc., emergency call buttons, and accessibility improvements for people identifying as having disabilities.
- d. Member Davis noted potential bias embedded in the survey and recommended measures such as prioritizing specific neighborhoods and demographics to help ensure that survey results are representative.

o **Policing Contracts (PC) ad hoc committee:** Committee member Davis reported on the Policing Contracts ad hoc committee. The ad hoc committee shared the following:

1. **Recommendation deadline:** The deadline for this committee’s recommendations is July 29th, 2021.
2. **Metro policing contracts discussion:** The committee asked Metro to provide additional information on how Metro contracts with their law enforcement vendors and how they work with law enforcement and other security service providers.
 - a. The committee also asked for details on how Metro has been collecting data included in the presentation.
3. **Reporting process improvements:** The committee discussed methods Metro customers can use to contact Metro dispatchers in emergency situations and improvements to make the process more efficient.

5. General Public Comment

Public comment was taken by email and from the meeting participants. The comments are as follows:

- a. Commentor recommended considering staff who received training on mental and emotional disabilities to replace traditional law enforcement.
- b. Commentor provided the following suggestions for PSAC: 1) adding staff to each station to deter fare evasion, 2) enforcing a mask mandate and no-eating policy, and 3) having regular cleaning crews onboard Metro vehicles.



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- c. Commentor asked Metro to address hygiene and safety issues related to unhoused individuals on the system.
- d. Commenter urged Metro to address crimes on Metro Blue Line. Commenter stated that the presence of law enforcement makes the riding experience feel safer. The commenter also asked Metro to enforce fare compliance.
- e. Commenter noted PSAC does not include any representatives from law enforcement or prosecution and asked if Metro attempted to include them.
- f. Commenter identifying as a council member of the City of Rosemead expressed objection to defunding public safety on Metro.
- g. Commentor expressed concerns about defunding professionally trained peace officers and stated that such a measure will negatively impact metro ridership.
- h. Commentor – a representative from the Bus Riders Union – expressed concerns regarding the forthcoming public surveys. Commentor also urged PSAC to seek input from the Bus Rider Union through visiting their website or contacting them via email.
- i. Commentor inquired about Metro contact info for submitting additional questions via emails.
 - o Metro staff replied that all questions can be emailed to psac@metro.net.

6. Adjournment

Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 21st, 2021 at 5pm.